

tinyforest

Powered by earthwatch
EUROPE

SUPER TINY. SUPER POWERFUL.



Earthwatch is an environmental charity that has partnered with over thirty schools across the UK to plant Tiny Forests, providing an outside space, created by the pupils to learn and carry out citizen science to stimulate interest in STEM subjects and reconnect with nature in an active, healthy way. In many instances Earthwatch has been able to bring sponsors in to assist with financing the project.

WHAT IS A TINY FOREST?

Tiny Forests are densely packed native forests, which fit into the size of a tennis court. The forest is not just a pleasant spot for butterflies, birds, bees and small mammals; it is a great place for people too. In the outdoor classroom, children learn about nature and it also serves as a meeting place for the local community.



Tiny Forests act as a catalyst for change in many ways, from promoting strong and lasting connections to nature among the next generation, to building teachers skills and confidence in leading inspiring outdoor learning beyond the confines of desk-based lessons.

By spending more time in the natural environment through Tiny Forests, pupils will grow their curiosity of the natural world and as a result, can participate in critical discussions about wider issues like climate change, sustainability and plastic pollution, and drive positive action for the planet.

Tiny Forests act as a living science laboratory and they provide the space for schools to build their agency to create change and gain valuable academic and social experiences.



TINY FORESTS IN ACTION

"For our school and students, the Tiny Forest provides a fantastic opportunity to be part of something which has an impact locally, nationally and globally, by developing their knowledge about biodiversity as Citizen Scientists, pupils understand what affects the natural world in their local area and can link to Tiny Forests in other parts of the country & world to be part of a wider network – this increases their sense of belonging and responsibility."

- Liz Latham, Principal at Queensmead Primary Academy, Leicester, Tiny Forest planted Spring 2021

Asking primary school students what their favourite part was...

"Going on a quest in the Tiny Forest" – Daniel

"Looking for insects in all the big and small spaces" – Luna

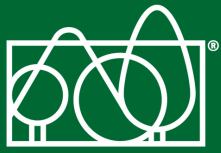
"Looking at the peaceful trees" - Jessica

"Identifying the tree species, because I like looking for things and seeing the precise data" – Chase

"The suspense of what was under the (biodiversity) tile" – Jess

"Taking soil squidyness readings" – Oliver





- 1. Need a site of approximately 200m² for the actual tiny forest, plus space for heavy machinery to do preparation work so total space possibly up to 500m². This area can be of any shape/orientation, but the forest must not be narrower than 4m across at any given point.**
- 2. No underground infrastructure: soil needs to be excavated to 1m depth**
- 3. No overhead infrastructure: trees will grow to 20m+**
- 4. Need a site that is accessible for large machinery: mini digger needed for soil preparation, plus truck delivery of straw and other soil supplements**
- Possible water access point: trees may need watering during first 2 years of maintenance, so either a water access point located nearby or access for a vehicle and water bowser to the site
- Need a site that is not causing obstruction to people's right of way (the forest becomes very dense and impassable unless a specific pathway is incorporated into the design)
- Need a site that is within an urban setting and that is easily accessible to users (employees or communities or the public)
- Site should not be designated as sensitive in any way: SSSI, SAC, Ramsar etc.
- Site should be an open area (we do not want to remove trees to plant new ones!), some scrub or low vegetation is fine, as are trees on the edge of the proposed site as these could potentially be incorporated into the design.
- The forest should be as compact as possible and is not suitable for using as hedging.
- Paths and an open classroom can be included into the design. The forest is fenced at least for the first 3 years with access through an open gate.

